Rural Information Technology Network

†169. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the plan to build a rural information technology network;

(b) whether the first phase of the new project has run into trouble as the Expenditure Finance Committee has questioned its logic and spending pattern; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) There is no plan to build up a rural information technology network. However, the Ministry of Information Technology has undertaken a project for setting up Community - Information Centres (CICs) for socio-economic development of the community in the North Eastern region. 30 CICs have been set up under this pilot project at sites selected by the State Governments of seven North East States and Sikkim.

(b) and (c) After completion of the pilot project, the next phase of the project has been undertaken for which requisite procedural, financial and administrative approval, including approval of expenditure finance committee are being obtained.' There is no trouble/problem in obtaining the aforesaid approval.

Establishment of Complaint Cells

*170. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to comply with